

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 were pending as of the action mailed on 22 March 2007.

Claims 1-4, 8-14, 18, 20-29, 33-39 and 43-48 are being amended; Claims 15-17, 19 and 40-42 are being cancelled; and Claims 49-62 are being newly added. No new matter has been added. Support for the amended claims may be found within the applicant's specification at least at page 11, lines 9-13. Newly added claims 49-62 are system claims corresponding to method claims 1-14 and product claims 26-39. The support for the addition of corresponding system claims may be found within the applicant's specification at least at page 13, line 25.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the action are requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-7, 15, 16, 18, 20, 26-32, 40, 41 and 43 were rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,959,382 ("Kinnis") in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0184485 ("Dray").

Claims 8-11, 17, 19, 33-36 and 42 were rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Kinnis in view of Dray in further view of U.S. Patent 5,787,175 ("Carter").

Claims 12, 13, 23-25, 37, 38 and 46-48 were rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Kinnis in view of Dray in further view of U.S. Patent 6,253,322 ("Susaki").

Claims 14 and 39 were rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Kinnis in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0129256 ("Parmelee").

Claims 21, 22, 44 and 45 were rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Kinnis in view of Dray in further view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0112162 ("Cocotis").

Claims 1, 18, 20, 26 and 43

To expedite prosecution, claims 1, 18, 20, 26 and 43 have been amended to better clarify the inclusion of both digital signature rights information and a digital signature module within a first electronic document. Additionally, the claims have been amended to recite the use of the digital signature module to perform digital signature operations on a second document identified by the digital signature rights information included in the first document. The applicant respectfully submits the recited limitations are not found in the combination of Kinnis and Dray.

Remaining Claims

The remaining claims depend from or correspond to independent claims 1, 20, 26 and 43, and are allowable for at least the reasons that apply to those independent claims.

New Claims 49-62

Newly added claims 49-62 are system claims corresponding to method claims 1-14 and product claims 26-39 and are allowable for at least those reasons that apply to the corresponding method and product claims.

Conclusion

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the examiner, the applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, the applicant's selecting some particular arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist. Finally, the applicant's decision to amend or cancel any claim should not be

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understood as implying that the applicant agrees with any positions taken by the examiner with respect to that claim or other claims.

The fees in the amount of \$350.00 is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 22 June 2007

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